

## Today's News - Wednesday, May 25, 2011

- McKibben dares us to link climate change to natural disasters plaguing the globe almost simultaneously.
- Evan Mather's latest video missive is a plea to save the 1995 Phillis Wheatley Elementary School in Tremé, New Orleans + WMF Watch Site info and online petition to save it.
- White will surely ruffle some feathers with his take on Gehl's Calgary to Copenhagen comparison: it's "too superficial" and he should have "done his homework."
- Antwerp's old, long over-looked harbor is being transformed by some notable names.
- Chinese investors have some big plans for Toledo, Ohio's forlorn riverfront, "part of a steadily growing number of Chinese-financed projects in small urban American markets."
- King gives thumbs-up to interiors and roof gardens of two new, very large hospitals, but their "architecture is a valiant effort rather than a beguiling" (not totally the architects' fault).
- Volner on Romero's Museo Soumaya: it "stands as an enigmatic monument, like nothing else on the Mexico City streetscape...As an urban artifact, the museum is a bit of a sphinx, its rhetoric willfully obtuse" (great pix).
- Brake takes a break at a "mid-century time capsule" - Saarinen's Miller House in Columbus, Indiana (lots of great pix, too).
- A garbage dump that was Israel's "most iconic roadside monstrosity" has been transformed into a "paradise."
- Baghdad plans to turn houses of a great poet and a most notable architect ("Zuhra" Hadid?) into museums.
- Green light for a new school of architecture in northern Ontario (somewhere in downtown Sudbury).
- An eyeful of the winning design in the Passive House for New Orleans competition.
- Call for entries: 2nd Annual BOFFO Building Fashion Design Challenge (last year's pop-up's were under the High Line, this year it's Tribeca).
- We couldn't resist: LaBarre is smitten with a "mildly obsessive, valentine" to San Francisco: a miniature of the city made of 100,000 toothpicks (and it's kinetic to boot!).

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**Op-Ed:** A link between climate change and Joplin tornadoes? Never! Caution: It is vitally important not to make connections...you might find your thoughts wandering to, oh, global warming...you might have to ask other questions...Do we have a bigger problem than \$4-a-gallon gasoline? By Bill McKibben/350.org-Washington Post

"A Plea For Modernism" by Evan Mather: The Phillis Wheatley Elementary School has served the historic New Orleans African-American neighborhood of Tremé since it opened in 1955. Although it is scheduled for demolition in Summer 2011, DOCOMOMO Louisiana is advocating for its restoration via adaptive reuse. -- Charles R. Colbert (1955) [video]- Hand Crafted Films

Phillis Wheatley Elementary School is a World Monuments Fund Watch Site: link to online petition to save it [images]- World Monuments Fund

Bikes first not easy path for Calgary: I am not convinced it is as simple as declaring Calgary a "pedestrian first" or "bike first" city...Gehl's Calgary to Copenhagen comparison is too superficial...If he had done his homework, he would have found that the City...spent \$220 million last year on roads, traffic and parking — but spent \$509 million on community and social development, social housing, parks, recreation, libraries and societies, i.e. people. By Richard White/Riddell Kurczaba Architecture- Calgary Herald (Canada)

Ascent into Antwerp: The old harbour is being infused with new life and transformed into a new cultural and residential district. Featuring buildings by some of today's best known names in architecture, its latest landmark is the city historical Museum aan de Stroom... -- Neutelings & Riedijk; Marie-José Van Hee architecten; Bob van Reeth/awg architecten; Richard Rogers; Michel Desvigne; Hans Kollhoff; Secchi & Vigano; Roger Diener; Gigon Guyer; David Chipperfield; Zaha Hadid; Beyer Blinder Belle [images, links]- Sign and Sight (Germany)

Infusion From China for Toledo, Ohio: Two investors from China bought a formerly city-owned tract and said they intended to build a new multipurpose waterfront district...one of the largest real estate investments in the U.S. by Chinese developers, and part of a steadily growing number of Chinese-financed projects in small urban American markets.- New York Times

Bay Area hospitals keep getting bigger: ...the architecture is a valiant effort rather than a beguiling success...a generation of hospitals where the dimensions make architectural styling superfluous...When we're inside a hospital, we want every conceivable service close at hand. When we're outside, we want it to defer to its surroundings. The conundrum? We can't always have both. By John King -- Ratcliff; Stantec [slide show]- San Francisco Chronicle

Museo Soumaya: ...stands as an enigmatic monument, like nothing else on the Mexico City streetscape...As an urban artifact, the museum is a bit of a sphinx, its rhetoric willfully obtuse... By Ian Volner -- FREE Fernando Romero Enterprise [slide show]- Architect Magazine

Mid-Century Time Capsule: The Miller House in Columbus, Indiana is famed as the collaborative achievement of three great design talents of the 20th century. Open to the public for the first time, Alan G. Brake steps inside to see how it has endured. -- Eero Saarinen; Dan Kiley; Alexander Girard [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Ariel Sharon Park transforms 'eyesore' into 'paradise': Notorious garbage dump near Ben Gurion Airport goes green...the brown hilltop of the Hiriya garbage dump – perhaps Israel's most iconic roadside monstrosity – now gleams with rows of sapling trees and wooden pergolas. -- Peter Latz + Partners- Jerusalem Post

Houses of Great Iraqi Poet Jawahiry and International Architecture Designer, Zuhra Hadid, changed into Inheritance/architectural museums...according to Baghdad Lord-Mayor, Sabir al-Issawi.- Aswat Al Iraq

Laurentian School of Architecture receives green light: The province's Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities...putting forth \$21 million for its construction in the city's [Greater Sudbury] downtown...location of the school has not yet been announced...- Northern Life (Canada)

Low Cost, Low Energy House for New Orleans: Hosted by Design By Many, the Passive House for New Orleans competition challenged designers to design a single-family dwelling that is sustainable in the broadest sense of the term...The winning proposal is based on the vernacular shotgun typology. -- sustainable.TV [images, links]- ArchDaily

Call for entries: 2nd Annual BOFFO Building Fashion Design Challenge: Design and produce retail installation in NYC in collaboration with fashion designer; 5 design competitions for 5 fashion designers; deadline: July 4- Architizer

A Miniature Of San Francisco, 100,000 Toothpicks And 35 Years In The Making: And it's a roller coaster, too!?! Scott Weaver's sculpture is also pretty touching - a sweet if, yes, mildly obsessive, valentine to the city, where so many have left their hearts... By Suzanne LaBarre [images, videos]- Fast Company



Foster + Partners: Bodegas Portia, Ribera del Duero, Spain

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